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THE MYTHOLOGY OF ALL RACES. In thirteen volumes. L. H. GRAY, Editor; G. F. MOORE, Consulting Editor. Volume I, Greek and Roman, by W. S. FOX. Boston, Marshall Jones Company, 1916. lxii+354 p. 63 pl., 11 text figs. No index.

THE consulting editor, speaking for the series, calls attention to the fact that "a comprehensive collection by competent scholars, of myths from all quarters of the world and all ages, has not hitherto been attempted," and states that the present work "may safely be pronounced one of the most important enterprises of this age of co-operative scholarship." Following him, the editor introduces briefly the several authors of the different volumes, of which three have been published, under the following titles: II, Teutonic; III, Celtic, Slavonic; IV, Finno-Ugric, Siberian; V, Semitic; VI, Indian, Iranian; VII, Armenian, African; VIII, Chinese, Japanese; IX, Oceanic;<sup>1</sup> X, American (north of Mexico);<sup>1</sup> XI, American (Latin); XII, Egypt, Far East; XIII, Index. The author, in a third preface, mentions, among other things, the circumstances which limited his choice of myths to "a comparatively small fraction of those which are logically available."

Exclusive of an "introduction to the Greek myths" (twenty pages), the work is divided into three parts, of which a hundred and forty-eight pages are devoted to "myths of the beginning, the heroes, and the after-world," nearly as many to "the Greek Gods," and twenty-two to "the mythology of ancient Italy." There follow two brief appendices on "survivals," ten pages of notes, and twenty of bibliography.

The principal Greek myths are extremely well told, and with satisfactory detail; as, for example, the story of Oedipus (pp. 48-51), — where one perhaps unreasonably misses mention of the artificial Sophoclean version suggested by the quotation from the Oedipus Coloneus, — or that of Heracles (pp. 75-95). Minor myths, as that of Canace, in which the reviewer found himself momentarily interested, are not treated. The book will not, then, serve the purpose of a reference-work, which, indeed, the irritating absence of a separate index renders impossible: it is rather a book to be read, and readable it certainly is. Its charm in this respect is delightfully enhanced by its numerous and well-chosen illustrations, many of them in colors, and many of them refreshingly new. The selection of material from American museums (e.g., Plate LXII, the Magna Mater in the Metropolitan; and Plate I, the Aphrodite in Toronto) is particularly happy.

Any spelling of Greek proper names in English tends nowadays to arouse subjective criticism. "Attike" (p. 73 and *passim*) offended in this case, especially in view of the author's declaration (p. xxii) that "the established English spelling . . . has been retained . . . in names of districts, cities, islands, and bodies of water to which frequent allusion is still made in English journalism and literature," and in view of his use of the adjective "Attic" in the same paragraph. At "Klytemaistra" one confesses to being shocked, whether by reason of its correctness, or by reason of the author's courage in using it.

A real defect in the book, from the reviewer's point of view, is the scant treatment afforded the mythology of Italy. Small though it be in comparison with that of Greece, yet it would seem that the author has done

<sup>1</sup> Published.

not quite adequate justice to the researches of Wissowa and Fowler; that a very considerable expansion of his brief paragraph on Etruscan mythology (p. 289) is suggested by his own Appendix II, in which he reviews Leland's "Etrusco-Roman Remains;" and that such myths as those of Evander and Cacus deserve a place beside those of Aeneas and Romulus.

Typographically the book is commendably clean, and its make-up is prepossessing. It will be royally welcomed by any who wish to read a vivid, yet carefully authenticated, version of the great stories of the Greek mythology, splendidly illustrated by ancient artists, from Execias to the Roman copyists.

JOHN R. CRAWFORD.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK,  
Nov. 1, 1916.

THE MYTHOLOGY OF ALL RACES. In thirteen volumes. LOUIS HERBERT GRAY, A.M., Ph.D., Editor; GEORGE FOOT MOORE, A.M., D.D., LL.D., Consulting Editor. Volume X, North American, by HARTLEY BURR ALEXANDER, Ph.D. Boston, Marshall Jones Company, 1916. xxiv+325 p., 33 pl., 2 text figs., map. Large 8°.

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER has presented in his mythology of North American Indians a useful summary of the vast and rapidly increasing body of myths that is being collected by students of anthropology. The material is well digested; and in eleven chapters the principal cultural areas of our continent north of Mexico are treated, the Eskimo, the forest tribes, the Gulf region, the Great Plains, mountain and desert, the Pueblos, and the Pacific coast, the last-named in two divisions,—a southern and a northern. In a summary like the present one, it is necessary to select from a vast and varied mass of material; and, on the whole, the author has laid particular stress upon the cosmogonies, concepts in regard to the structure of the world, and mythical history. The vast mass of disconnected animal tales have received less attention.

In his introduction the author sets forth his general views in regard to the significance of mythology; and on the whole, his discussion of the meaning of myths as interpretations of nature, and of the influence of borrowing, is sane and conservative. In the opinion of the reviewer, it would seem that the author is too much inclined to consider mythology as a reflex of historical happenings. While it seems quite probable that historical events may have influenced mythology, a semblance of historical appearance is so often given to purely fanciful accounts, that this kind of evidence can be utilized only with the greatest caution and when supported by other facts. This is true, for instance, of the author's account of Cheyenne history and of other similar cases. The animal stories which the author discusses as characteristic of the Gulf region, and which, as he believes, have been carried from the Indians to the Negroes, are undoubtedly of Negro and European origin, and were adopted and adapted by the Indians of the Southwest.

The book is accompanied by a copy of the excellent map of linguistic stocks published originally in the "Handbook of American Indians" (Bulletin of the Bureau of American Ethnology) and by numerous excellent